



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration



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CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST IN HEALTH NEEDS OF EVACUEES

At a press conference on Monday, September 5, Governor Jim Doyle and Mayor Tom Barrett joined with Milwaukee elected officials to announce Wisconsin's support of up to 1100 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina who are expected to arrive in Milwaukee over the next several days. The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is ready to deploy up to 30 Public Health Nurses to assist the American Red Cross in the health screening efforts of the evacuees at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center at State Fair Park.

"The City of Milwaukee Health Department has an emergency response plan to deal with situations like this," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. "We will continue to work collaboratively with key agencies involved in this effort to provide a dignified and warm welcome to our city."

MHD Public Health Nurses will conduct initial health screenings to identify acute health needs, assess ongoing health concerns and assist in establishing a referral system to other county health programs.

The MHD will also be helping to coordinate volunteer efforts of area physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others in order to best assist these evacuees. This is important, because previous experience in other US cities indicates that as many as half of the evacuees have acute medical needs, ranging from diarrheal illness to loss of crucial prescription medications for serious medical problems such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease.